



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JEFFREY R. VONK, DIRECTOR

November 28, 2005

Christa Dean
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Roquette America, Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa

Dear Ms. Dean:

This responds to your letter of November 3, 2005, requesting comments on Roquette America's proposed rail line construction project. We have reviewed the information provided and have the following comments.

In the project area, the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers are designated as Class A1 Primary contact recreational use. These are waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming, diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing. The Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers are also designated as Class B(WW) Significant resource warm water. These are waters in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable for the maintenance of a wide variety of reproducing populations of warm water fish and associated aquatic communities, including sensitive species. This reach of the Mississippi River is also designated as a Class C Drinking water supply. These are waters which are used as a raw water source of potable water supply.

We would ask that Best Management Practices be used to control erosion and protect water quality near the project. Impacts to waters of the United States should be avoided.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed project. If you have any questions or comments, please write me at the address shown below, or call (515) 281-6615.

Sincerely,

Christine M. Schwake

Christine M. Schwake
Environmental Specialist
Water Quality Section